



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69 A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON SC 29403-5107

Regulatory Division

September 12, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

***ALTERNATIVE PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESSING PROCEDURES FOR
ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE IRMA***

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, will initiate alternative permitting procedures in response to conditions resulting from **Hurricane Irma**. **These alternate procedures will be utilized for a period of 6 months from the date of this Notice, or 12 March 2018:**

1. In accordance with 33 CFR 325.2(e)(4), an “emergency” is a situation which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the permit application under standard procedures.
2. Most permitting will likely be accomplished through the nationwide permit (NWP) program. For example, containment/clean up/restoration operations may be authorized under NWP #38. Additionally, bank stabilization activities may be authorized under NWP #13. These activities would be accomplished under the authorities of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
3. For those actions which do not qualify for authorization under the terms and conditions of the NWP program, the following procedures will be used:
 - a. Requests for expedited permits associated with **Hurricane Irma** will be reviewed to determine if there is truly an emergency situation associated with the request.
 - b. If the action is determined to be an emergency, descriptions of the proposed action will be transmitted to representatives from each of the commenting agencies, including the State/Commonwealth agencies responsible for Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Consistency if required.
 - c. The District will make a permit decision after considering/addressing any comments submitted by the agencies. It is anticipated that this process can be finalized within 24-48 hours for most actions.

4. If additional information is needed, please contact Mr. Tommy Fennel of the Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Fennel may be reached at 843.365.1727, or by email at: tommy.e.fennel@usace.army.mil.

Travis G. Hughes
Chief, Regulatory Division